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# Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 CPR-01 PPT-01
SCA-01 VO-03 /058 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:IMSILINS/LVA
APPROVED BY EUR/EE:CWSCHMIDT
----------160614Z 106154 /12
O 160557Z APR 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST NIACT IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, CSCE, RO

SUBJECT: NEW YORK TIMES CORRESPONDENT REFUSED ENTRY

1. FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS APRIL 16. ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES TODAY REFUSED TO PERMIT NEW YORK TIMES CORRESPONDENT MALCOLM BROWNE TO ENTER THE COUNTRY. ACCORDING TO NYT ASSISTANT EDITOR SID SCHANBERG, BROWNE ARRIVED AT THE BUCHAREST AIRPORT FROM BELGRADE APRIL 15 (TIME AND FLIGHT UNKNOWN). HE WAS SINGLED OUT FROM THE GROUP OF PASSENGERS, HELD FOR ABOUT 40 MINUTES, AND THEN TOLD THAT HE COULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO ENTER "BECAUSE HIS PASSPORT HAD BEEN USED BY SOMEONE ELSE ILLEGALLY ENTERING ROMANIA." THE TIMES DENIES THIS ALLEGATION; BROWNE SAYS HE HAS NEVER LENT HIS PASSPORT TO ANYONE. BROWNE WAS THEN PLACED ON THE NEXT PLANE LEAVING BUCHAREST, WHICH LUCKILY FOR HIM WAS AN AIR FRANCE FLIGHT TO BELGRADE. IN BELGRADE, HE HAS BEEN TRYING UNSUCCESSFULLY TO TELEPHONE THE ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR IN AN
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ATTEMPT TO STRAIGHTEN THINGS OUT AND GET INTO ROMANIA.

2. SCHANBERG TOLD DESK OFFICER THE TIMES' FIRST PRIORITY IS TO GET BROWNE INTO ROMANIA. IF THAT PROVES IMPOSSIBLE, HE WOULD LIKE US TO EXPRESS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S DIS-PLEASURE, AND THAT OF THE TIMES, AT THIS ROMANIAN ACTION.

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3. IN ORDER TO GIVE GOR SOME ROOM TO BACK DOWN, WE ARE TREATING MATTER AS LIKELY "MISUNDERSTANDING." EUR/EE ACTING DIRECTOR SCHMIDT CALLED ROMANIAN DCM IONITA AT 5:15 P.M. ON APRIL 15 AND ASKED FOR ASSISTANCE IN CLARIFYING SITUATION PROMPTLY SO BROWNE CAN ENTER ROMANIA. HE SAID WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE BROWNE'S PASSPORT HAS EVER BEEN USED BY ANYONE ELSE. IONITA SAID HE HAD NO INFORMATION ABOUT THE MATTER AND PROMISED TO QUERY BUCHAREST.

4. BUCHAREST 2778 JUST RECEIVED. WE WILL AWAIT YOUR FURTHER RECOMMENDATION.
CHRISTOPHER

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# Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** CVIS, RO, CSCE
**To:** BUCHAREST
**Type:** TE
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